Sana Rosa County Sheriff's Office

Santa Rosa Sheriff's Office Sheriff Bob Johnson

Lt. Todd Smith
District 3
4775 Pace Patriot Blvd
Pace, FL 32571

To: Captain Blevin Davis

From: Lt. Todd Smith

Date: 08/22/17

Re: SI # 058 SRSO Case # 17008013

Complaint:

On 08/08/17 I was made aware that Karyn Weekley had complained that when the offense report was written concerning a disturbance between her and her exhusband Thomas Weekley the deputy writing the report put in that she was not injured. It is my understanding that she disputes this saying she was injured when her ex-husband closed the door on her hand. The fact that her hand was hit by the door when Thomas Weekley closed it is not under dispute, Mr. Weekley said it was not intentional and Mrs. Weekley believes it was intentional. Because of conflicting statements no charges were filed during the investigation. On 08/14/17 Captain Blevin Davis ordered a supervisory inquiry into the matter.

Finding:

Sgt. Jamey Kahalley is the reporting deputy for this case, he went to the event at the request of Sgt. Joel Murphey who knows the Weekley's personally and thought it would be better if someone else went. Deputy Caleb Cook and his trainee Jack Holland responded as well. I had Deputies Cook and Holland complete supplements to the report as well which they had not done initially.

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Sgt. Kahalley put in his report that he asked if she (Mrs. Weekley) was injured and she said no and flexed her right hand to show no injury.

Deputy Cook put in his supplement that Mrs. Weekley had a mark on her right hand that was developing into a raised bruise; he said she denied EMS but the injury did prevent her from snapping her fingers. Pictures of the mark on her hand where taken. While in route to the call Sgt. Kahalley had instructed the deputies to contain the scene until he arrived and he would take over the case, Deputy Cooke said Sgt. Kahalley seemed aggravated that they had taken pictures before he arrived; he said that Sgt. Kahalley had shaken his head when told they had. DST Holland later deleted the pictures thinking he had done something wrong so we had to have the pictures retrieved from the camera's memory card. DST Holland writes in his report that he observed two fresh light red lines on Mrs. Weekley's hand. When I reviewed the pictures from the case there did appear to be a red mark in the center on the top of her hand.

On 08/18/17 I spoke to Mrs. Karyn Weekley by phone concerning this situation. Mrs. Weekley was sure she had told Sgt. Kahalley she was injured, Deputy Cook and the trainee were not standing with Sgt. Kahalley when he spoke to Mrs. Weekley. She believes the report is one sided and just because she did not need EMS does not mean her hand did not hurt. She described it as something needing a bag of ice and some Tylenol not a trip to the ER. I told Mrs. Weekley that the significance of the injury was not the deciding factor as to if an arrest was made. She believes her ex-husband shut the door on her hand on purpose he said it was an accident caused by her sticking her hand in the doorway as he was closing it; it is her word against his word type of situation. Mrs. Weekley also explained the living situation, she said they had divorced about seven years ago but soon after the divorce they got back together and soon after that they built the house she now lives in. She said up until last year Mr. Weekley lived there also but that he now lives on property they own on Morristown road. On 08/21/17 I spoke again to Mrs. Weekley about a recording that Deputy Cook mentions in his supplement from the case, she said that she has already deleted the recording. She said that she was not going to use it against him (Mr. Weekley) so she had deleted it.

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During his investigation of the event Sgt. Kahalley could not determine who was at fault, he made no arrest or warrant application, he documented this event under SRSO case # 17008013. It was later decided to re-examine the event, Deputy Cook and Deputy Trainee Holland were asked to write supplements to the report. The case was then reassigned to Detective Randy Dahl for additional investigation. During Detective Dahl's investigation he met with both Mr. and Mrs. Weekley and obtained written statements from both.

It is obvious that Mrs. Weekley disagrees with Sgt. Kahalley's statement about her hand, photographs do indicate that she had a red mark on her hand. However I am unable to determine if Sgt. Kahalley purposely omitted that Mrs. Weekley had an injury to her hand or if Sgt. Kahalley's definition of an injury is simply more than a bruising red mark on a hand. There is no dispute from anyone that her hand was hit by the door, the deciding factor, concerning if an arrest should have been made, is who was at fault and if the event was criminal in nature.

While comparing the witness statements and Detective Dahl's investigation to the reports written by Deputy Cook and Deputy Trainee I found some mistakes or discrepancies. Deputy Cook indicates that Mrs. Weekley was inside the home near the back door but Det. Dahl's investigation and Mrs. Weekley's statement indicates she was outside the back door, Deputy Trainee Holland indicates they were at the front door of the house and this actually occurred at a backdoor leading to a patio. There is no indication these discrepancies were purposeful, most likely it was a result of them only being in the beginning stages of the investigation when Sgt. Kahalley arrived and assumed the investigation.

As previously mentioned Det. Randy Dahl was assigned the investigation and he did submit a warrant for Mr. Weekley to the States Attorney's Office. After review they decided that no action be taken due to insufficient evidence, their review of the situation include the issuance of investigative subpoenas to the deputies involved. No charges were filed and this matter was concluded.

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During my review of this case I spoke in length to Deputy Cook, one of the things I asked him was why he and/or his trainee did not do a supplement to the report initially; he said that they were just containing the scene until Sgt. Kahalley arrived and they would not normally write supplements in that situation.

Deputy Cook also said that when Sgt. Kahalley first arrived and was speaking only to him and DST Holland that Sgt. Kahalley said do you know who this is, he is a big contributor for the sheriff, he (Mr. Weekley) does a lot for the community mentioning the Boo fest event. He said that Sgt. Kahalley also mentioned that Boo (Mr. Weekley) drinks a lot and gets mean when drinking. He said that Sgt. Kahalley said that he had to keep him (Mr. Weekley) from getting in a fight before. Deputy Cook also said that Sgt. Kahalley said the only reason she (Mrs. Weekley) called was because she was trying to get a large sum of money.

I spoke to DST Holland about these comments, he remembers Sgt. Kahalley saying something along the lines of all he cared about was how it sits with unit 1 because he (Mr. Weekley) was a big supporter of the Sheriff, he also remembers Sgt. Kahalley saying something along the lines of Boo (Mr. Weekley) being a mean drunk. He said he remembers Sgt. Kahalley saying something about Mrs. Weekley being after a large sum of money but is not sure if that occurred on the night in question or on a later date. He did not remember Sgt. Kahalley saying anything about previously keeping Mr. Weekley out of a fight.

Conclusion: This supervisory Inquiry does not find that Sgt. Kahalley purposely minimized or tried to slant the evidence in this case. After additional review the SAO in the end agreed with his finding. However this inquiry does find that Sgt. Kahalley did fail to obtain a written or taped statement from either party (nor did he state why he did not) and he did not provide Mrs. Weekley, who claimed to be a victim, the Victim's Rights Pamphlet as required per SRSO General Order M-008 Section IV. Detective Dahl obtained statements from Mr. and Mrs. Weekley during his follow up of the case. I also find the comments that Sgt. Kahalley allegedly made concerning the Weekley's were unneeded and unprofessional and while they were only made to other law enforcement it still reflects poorly on him and the Santa Rosa Sheriff's Office.